

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on May 8, 2020

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Friday, May 8, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets

In attendance: Chairperson Margaret Curran and Todd Bianco. Remotely: Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Alan Nault, John Harrington and Patricia Lucarelli.

I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

II. Docket No. 4943 – Guidance Document Regarding Principles to Guide the Development and Review of Performance Incentive Mechanisms – The PUC discussed and reviewed the Staff Memorandum dated April 30, 2020. Chairperson Curran moved to adopt a Guidance Document with the Staff Memorandum recommendation and to issue the final guidance document. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairperson Curran further moved to amend the motion to adopt the Staff’s recommendation #36 and add the clause “Stated another way” before the sentence 2 of Principle 5 and issue final guidance document. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

III. Docket No. 5023 - Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC) – The PUC reviewed the record relating to the EERMC’s March 23, 2020 Memorandum recommending Energy Efficiency Savings Targets for National Grid’s electric and gas energy efficiency procurement plan and energy efficiency program plans for the 2021-2013 period.

After review, Commissioner Anthony moved that the Commission approve the EERMC’s proposed electric and natural gas lifetime energy efficiency savings targets and associated annual electric and natural gas saving in Table 13 (in response to PUC data requests), electric peak demand reduction targets, and CHP electric energy savings and peak demand reduction targets for 2021, 2022, and 2023 as filed on March 23, 2020 as a reasonable estimate of Rhode Island’s energy efficiency potential over the next three-year period. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Chairperson Curran noted administrative matters. The Office of Energy Resources (OER) filed to intervene. Under statute OER is deemed a party. National Grid filed a motion to intervene on April 13, 2020. Under Commission

rules, the motion is deemed granted if is not objected to within 10 days. No objection was received. The motions to intervene are deemed granted without Commission action.

The Commission wanted to make it clear to the parties that the targets represent achievable savings and the Commission is not approving targets as representing prudent, reliable, environmentally responsible levels of energy efficiency, nor that the energy savings estimated by this study are less than the cost of supply. The PUC also expects the Company to file three-year and annual energy efficiency plans that demonstrate consistency with these requirements. The Company should file plans that balance short and long-term energy savings to address intergenerational equity considerations; portfolio diversity; and customer demand.

- IV. **Docket No. 5016 – C2 RI Hopkinton, LLC (Company)** – The PUC reviewed the Company’s application for eligibility of the SMTROMBINO02808SOLAR800RE generation unit, a 0.80 MW AC (0.99 MW DC) solar facility located in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource. After review, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the application as recommended by PUC consultant. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- V. There being no further business to address, Chairperson Curran adjourned the Open Meeting at 2:37 P.M. A video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>